

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 08077 031847Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T ROME 8077

EXDIS

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, JO, EG, IS, VT
SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO VATICAN

REF: ROME 7966, AMMAN 3491 (EXDIS)

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CASAROLI GAVE US FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT OF APRIL 29 VISIT OF KING HUSSEIN WITH POPE PAUL VI.
2. VISIT TOOK PLACE IN VERY CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE AND VATICAN WAS PLEASED WITH KING'S DECLARATION OF CONSTRUCTIVE CO-EXISTENCE OF MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS IN JORDAN.
3. REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS, KING GAVE IMPRESSION THAT HE FELT SADAT'S INITIATIVE PROVED IN-EFFECTIVE BECAUSE IT LACKED NECESSARY POLITICAL PREPARATION. THUS, THE KING, DESPITE THE POPE'S REITERATION OF STRONG SUPPORT OF SADAT'S INITIATIVE AS STILL VALID INSTRUMENT FOR FORWARD MOVEMENT ON A DIFFICULT PROBLEM, DID NOT APPEAR DISPOSED TO JOIN IN THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE

SECRET

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PAGE 02 ROME 08077 031847Z

ANY RESUMED EGYPT-ISRAEL NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, THE KING APPEARED EQUALLY DISINCLINED TO SIDE WITH THE REJECTIONISTS' STATES AGAINST SADAT AND IS COMMITTED TO FOLLOW BALANCED ACT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES AND TO FAVOR RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE.

4. REGARDING JERUSALEM, CASAROLI SAID THAT THE POPE

DISCUSSED WITH HUSSEIN THE VATICAN PROPOSED SOLUTION OF "SPECIAL STATUTE UNDER INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES," BUT, OUT OF DEFERENCE TO THE KING, THERE WAS NO MENTION OF IT IN THE POPE'S PUBLIC REMARKS. HUSSEIN APPARENTLY PRESSED ON THE POPE THE JORDANIAN VIEW THAT EAST JERUSALEM SHOULD BE RETURNED TO "ARAB SOVEREIGNTY" BUT WITH SOME "LINKS" BETWEEN IT AND THE REST OF JERUSALEM.

5. ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE, HUSSEIN WAS EXTREMELY GUARDED, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO FUTURE ROLE OF THE PLO IN THE WEST BANK, BUT STATED THAT HE FAVORS THE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR WEST BANK PALESTINIANS. CASAROLI ADDED THAT THE KING WAS NOT CLEAR ON THE QUESTION OF A POSSIBLE FEDERATION BETWEEN THE WEST BANK AND JORDAN. GARDNER

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